(b) if so, whether the work has since been taken up by CBI; and

(c) the nature of complaints made and the extent to which irregularities in the National Institute of Science Communications have been curbed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH) : (a) to (c) Irregularities in the matter of procurement of printing material, purchase of office furniture, recruitment/ assessment promotions were alleged at National Institute of Science Communication (NISCOM), a constituent of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Assistance of anti-corruption branch, CBI was sought in the matter, who after examination advised CSIR to investigate the matter departmentally and seek their assistance, if required. A one man committee headed by a retired Secretary to Govt. of India has been appointed for detailed examination of the allegations.

[Translation]

Rural Management Institutes

3588. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up Rural Management Institutes in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Bihar in July 1996 for setting up of Rural Management Institute on the lines of Anand (Gujarat); and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) and (b) No such proposal is under consideration either in this Ministry or in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. However, in terms of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, any institution imparting training in management requires permission of the Council for its establishment.

(c) and (d) A reference dated 12.7.1996 in this regard was received from the Minister for Cooperation, Information and Public Relations, Minorities Welfare and Art, Culture, Youth Affairs, Government of Bihar addressed to the then Union Minister for Food and Civil Supplies, who in turn had forwarded that latter to the Union Minister of State for Agriculture. Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Ministry of Agriculture has informed that Department is not contemplating setting up Rural Management Institute anywhere in the country including Bihar.

[English]

Land Reforms

3589. SHRI ANANT GUDHE : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the present status of implementation of land reforms as assessed/reported by the State Governments in the latest conference in terms of targets set, State-wise;

(b) the details of progress made in this regard during the last three years, State-wise;

(c) the details of special and fresh initiatives taken by the Government during the last year for effective implementation of the land reforms and the results achieved therefrom; and

(d) the action plan formulated by the Government for the current year?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI KINJARAPPU YERRANNAIDU) : (a) Targets are set, State-wise for distribution of ceiling surplus land only, not by a resolution of any conference but on certain principles, lately on the basis of net area available for distribution as reported by the States in the Fourth Quarterly Progress Report of the preceding year. However, the Conference of the Revenue Ministers/Secretaries of the States are held from time to time, the latest of which was held on 28.1.97 which *inter-alia* assessed the status of implementation of land reforms including distribution of ceiling surplus land.

(b) Progress made in distribution of ceiling surplus land during the last 3 years, with State-wise break-up is given in the enclosed statement.

(c) During the last year, all major issues pertaining to land reforms including the two special agenda under the Common Minimum Programme were taken up for effective deliberation and implementation through time-bound programmes in the meetings of the Revenue Secretaries held on 26th and 27th November, 1996 and also in the meeting of the Revenue Ministers held on 28th January, 1997. As per the recommendations of the aforesaid conferences, the State Governments are taking necessary steps for speedy implementation of various land reform measures.

(d) During the current year, State-wise target for distribution of ceiling surplus land have already been fixed and communicated to respective States. For strengthening of Revenue Administration and Updation of Land Records the Budgetary allocation of Rs. 18.80 crores have been made.

In Addition, for supporting the ongoing programme of computerisation of land records as well as computerisation of cadastral maps, an amount of Rs. 20 crore have been allocated for the current financial year. Some reputed institutions/ organisations including National Institutes have been engaged for independent evaluation and assessment of the existing tenancy laws, laws relating to restoration of tribal land etc.,